

Property - 1938

Florida

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
November 8, 1938

MAY BE A NEGRO TAXPAYERS' ASSN.

There may be a negro Taxpayers' association, Fred J. Collins, president of the original Taxpayers' association, said today. He said he had a conference with negro leaders yesterday, but could not yet announce results. "They claim there are 500 negro taxpayers in Daytona Beach," Collins said.

What Do You Know About Negro Wealth in South?

**VICTOR SIMON MAKES
OUTSTANDING RECORD
AS STOCK DEALER**

By JAMES F. BOZEMAN

From the House of Simon many volumes have been written, tracing history from Biblical times on through every century to date. Fame and fortune are traditional link. In this twentieth century streamlined age we find Victor Simon, resident and owner of the Union Stock Yards at Baton Rouge, La., carrying on.

Mr. Simon was born June 28, 1874, at Pine Bluff, Ark., the son of an ex-slave, Eudora V. Simon and Charles M. Simon, a Jew.

Victor entered school at six years of age but was forced to come out when he was 10 and find bread for himself following a band of Gypsy horse traders over the country.

He learned the art in horse trading and went in business for himself at 18 years of age, opening stables at Pine Bluff.

Employed by Britain

During the World war, Victor Simon was forced to sell his business and enlisted for service as a horse trader—only to be denied that position when authorities in Washington learned of his racial identities. Nevertheless, the British government capitalized on his ability by appointing him to the same duties as those which the United States had refused.

After the war Mr. Simon reopened his stables at Pine Bluff but soon found it necessary to move to Baton Rouge to evade the boll weevil epidemic that retarded the progress of the farmer.

Since 1919, Victor Simon has gradually grown to the top in his field in the state of Louisiana, regardless of race, color or creed. With 64 years of service behind him, he carries on as if life just begins.

No Understudy

Railroad statistics show that his firm, the Union Stock Yard, did more business in 1937 than his two white competitors combined with gross receipts of \$156,000 for mules and horses and \$90,000 for cattle, making a grand total of \$246,000.

As a business man among men he reigns superior and as a Negro his achievements are almost unbelievable in Dixie.

The Union Stock Yards cover several acres, with a main barn and modern facilities shipping over 100 car loads of stock annually.

On interviewing Mr. Simon, the saddest words came last, "I only regret that I have been unable to interest any young Negro lad in my business to the extent of learning the art of cattle dealing, and when I die, it will no doubt go into the hands of the white race."

Mr. Simon's matrimonial score is one but he has no children.

What Do You Know Of Negro Wealth In Dixie?

(By JAMES F. BOZEMAN for ANP)

To read or hear orations on the plight of the Negro in Dixie, and then travel and do your own investigating, you would no doubt be come surprised. Most writers and speakers only refer to the South as a section forever boiling over with nothing less than barbarism, lynching and starvation for the Negro.

Motoring through Louisiana and across Texas plains, one gazes upon a dense forest of derricks and oil tanks as thick as mushrooms. I dare not make the assertion that Negroes own these fields, but on investigation you would be amazed to find just how deep his hand is buried in that oil.

The Universal Oil and Drilling Corp., a Negro organization with headquarters at Shreveport, represents a stock of \$200,000. Prof. J. L. Jones, president of that firm, is said to be worth more than a quarter million dollars. Individuals belonging to the colored group own around 150 wells in and around the Kilgore (Tex.) fields bordering Louisiana.

"Black Gold" alone is not the only means by which Negroes in this great section have risen into the financial limelight. Like other races they are gradually becoming a commercial competitor in various fields. There is no greater example than the rise of Victor Simon, president and owner of the Union Stock yards at Baton Rouge, a horse trader since 13 years of age. At 65 statistics show that his business exceeds his two white competitors combined. Ninety-seven percent of his business is from the white race.

At Crowley, La., a small town of 10,000 population, William W. Mudd had made an unsung record as a real estate dealer. Now only 30 years of age, Mr. Mudd owns 128 rent houses and holds \$13,000 worth of Bell Telephone stock. Only ten years ago he was employed by the Rice plant at Crowley unloading trucks

for 10 c each. His education is limited to beneath the fourth grade.

Dr. Robert Butler, pharmacist at Baton Rouge, owns and operates the South, West's most elaborate drug store, located in his own building. Several other worthy enterprises are housed under the supervision of Dr. Butler. He received his education through an International Correspondence course and passed the state board with highest honors over 83 whites and seven colored.

Since 1930, Dr. Butler has risen from \$750 to a reported wealth of \$123,000 and eight pieces of valuable property. He is only 35 years of age.

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Milledgeville, Ga. Times
June 30, 1938

Negro Tax Returns Show Big Increase

Tax returns by Baldwin county negroes for 1938 totalled \$445,263, according to Mrs. L. D. Smith, tax collector, yesterday.

Mrs. Smith said the returns this year represented an increase of \$16,938 over last year's returns. The increase was effected regardless of the fact that homestead and property exemption laws were passed by the legislature.

Mrs. Smith also said it would be approximately another month before the returns of white property-owners have been consolidated.

Savannah, Ga., Press
August 5, 1938

Reward of Thrift

There is an interesting lesson in thrift and the ability to accumulate and save in the account of the probating of the will of Albert P. Grant, a negro resident of Savannah. The Evening Press news columns told of the filing of the will on Wednesday. It represented an estate worth at least \$20,000 and the property had been accumulated by a colored resident of Savannah through the application of his profession. He was a barber. And as a barber we imagine he never earned any very large sums; his income must have been modest, but he succeeded in building up a substantial property. He died owning several houses and other forms of real estate, in Savannah and Chatham county.

Here was a negro resident of Savannah who gave attention to his business, made no effort to interfere in the affairs of others, lived economically and saved something of what he made at his calling.

We are quite sure he sought the advice of those who specialized in properties in which he was interested and in this way received directions as to where to place his money so that it would bring in substantial returns. The example of Grant is one that might be followed by others of his race and calling. Prosperity follows the capacity to earn and the ability to save. Thrift is a virtue that pays big dividends. This

representative negro Savannahian set fine example for others of his race to follow.

Georgia Barber Leaves His Widow Estate Of \$20,000

Savannah, Ga., Aug. 25 (ANP)—Probated last week in the court of the ordinary, the will of the late Albert P. Grant who died July 16 revealed an estate valued at over \$20,000. Grant was one of the city's best known barbers, and for 40 years operated a shop in the same block on Broughton street. Executors of the will, the widow, Mrs. Charlotte Grant, and Atty. J. Lawrence Alnutt, were permitted to administer the estate without furnishing bond.

A grandson Leon Grant, was deeded the barber shop and \$100. After several other bequests to relatives, the residue was bequeathed to the widow and at her death their son and two daughters will inherit the property.

BARBER LEAVES \$20,000 ESTATE

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Augusta, Ga. Herald
September 21, 1938

COLORED DIGEST

Shows Loss in Actual Valuation Here

Loss of property estimated at \$139,905 was revealed in the completed 1938 tax digest of negro owned property in the city and Richmond County, C. A. Steed, tax receiver, said Wednesday.

This year's property valuation was placed at \$2,378,835 as compared to \$2,514,740 last year. Mr. Steed revealed. Homestead and personal exemption on that property amounted to \$836,450, leaving a net digest of \$1,542,385. The exemptions were personal, \$137,000, and homestead, \$699,400.

At the present tax rate actual cash loss, Mr. Steed estimated, would be as follows: Schools, \$1,400; county, \$725, and state, \$500.

Completed several weeks ago the digest of white owners' property in the eight militia districts showed a total valuation of \$4,923,095 as compared with \$4,473,890 in 1937. The two exemptions reduced the net digest to \$3,729,565.

Mr. Steed said the final part of the digest will be completed by October 1, after which the county commissioners will set the tax rate.

Augusta, Ga. Chronicle
September 21, 1938

NEGRO PROPERTY DIGEST DECLINES

Personal and Homestead Ex- emptions Reduce Tax- able Value

Negro-owned property in Augusta and Richmond county dropped in valuation \$135,905 according to the tax digest of this type property as compiled by the office of C. A. Steed, tax receiver.

Property listed this year is valued at \$2,378,835. Last year the same property was valued at \$2,514,740.

However, both personal and homestead exemptions were applied to the gross value of the Negro-owned property, reducing the figure on which the county may levy taxes to \$1,542,385, a loss of \$972,355 from the digest of last year to which no exemption was applied.

Personal property exemption allowed amounted to \$137,050 while the homestead exemption

amounted to \$699,400.

This is the second section of the digest to be completed this year. Previously Mr. Steed had announced that property in the eight rural districts is valued at \$4,923,095 this year as compared with the 1937 valuation of \$4,473,890. The two exemptions reduce this figure to \$3,729,565, the amount on which taxes will be levied.

The personal property exemption in the rural districts amounted to \$118,610 and the homestead exemption amounted to \$1,074,820.

So far there is \$5,271,950 worth of property on which taxes may be levied. To this figure will be added the value of property owned by white taxpayers in the city.

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Ed Stellings, county auditor, is preparing a tax guide. When the total digest is completed the amount of the tax levy will be determined from the guide now being prepared.

Property - 1938

Illinois.

Irish Sweepstakes Brings Porter on Overland Limited Road Huge Sum of \$75,000

Lucky Pullman Employee Will Remain on Job for Another Three Years

Will Devote Time to Fraternal Work

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Royal E. Spurlark, Pullman porter, between Chicago and San Francisco for 27 years, returned here Friday morning richer by \$75,000 than he has been living for 17 years in quarters at the home of Mrs. Glover Compton. Included in his family are Royal Spurlark Jr., 21, who is attending Loyola University Law school through earnings as a red cap and with his father's help; Mr. and Mrs. James McKain, cousins, and Mrs. Henrietta Taylor, the porter's 80-year-old aunt.

Northwestern station was the scene of a royal welcome when the winner got off the Overland Limited around 8:30 Friday morning. The entire family of the 59-year-old porter, lodge brothers and photographers were present. Later he was guest of honor at several get-togethers.

But his good fortune and sudden riches will not cause him to quit his job. He will continue giving service to Pullman guests for another three years. At that time he can retire with a pension. That will mean a steady monthly income for the rest of his life.

Actually, Mr. Spurlark will collect for his personal use about \$2,087.50 of the \$75,000. The federal government will take \$3,000 as normal income tax and \$19,910 as surtax. Of course, the cost of his ticket, \$2.50, will have to be deducted, and he has until March 15 to pay his taxes to Uncle Sam.

But the residue will mean considerable comfort to several people. The Spurlark family has been living for 17 years in quarters at the home of Mrs. Glover Compton. Included in his family are Royal Spurlark, Jr., 21, who is attending Loyola University law school through earnings as a red cap and with his father's help; Mr. and Mrs. James McKain, cousins, and Mrs. Henrietta Taylor, the porter's 80-year-old aunt.

When he left Chicago on his regular run, Mr. Spurlark knew he was "in the money", but he had no idea how much. His ticket was coupled with Dubonnet, second prize winner, in the drawing a week ago Friday. He had offers from one source of \$7,500 for his ticket. On visiting relatives at Belvedere, Ill., his home, he told them he had also been offered \$40,000 by a syndicate but turned it down.

**Chicago Porter,
Winner of \$75,000,
Won't Retire**

Chicago, Nov. 2—ANP—Royal E. Spurlark, Pullman porter between Chicago and San Francisco for 27 years, returned here Friday morning richer by \$75,000 than he had ever hoped to be. His horse won that amount for him by finishing second in the Cesarewitch stakes at Newmarket, England.

Northwestern station was the scene of a royal welcome when the winner got off the Overland Limited around 8:30 Friday morning. The entire family of the 59-year-old porter, lodge brothers and friends, as well as reporters and photographers were present. Later, he was guest of honor at several get-togethers.

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If he follows his avowed intention of working until he reaches the retirement age, Mr. Spurlark plans to devote the rest of his life to fraternal work. He is prominent in Masonic ranks and is a grand lecturer for the lodge. He was the only Chicagoan to win a major prize in this year's Irish sweepstakes.

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Kansas

'Black Gold' Comes To George Walker In Stafford County Large Wheat Farm of Ex-Slave, 88 Years Old, Produces Well Of Wealth

By M. D. SPENCER

GREAT BEND, Kas. — After living for years on the fruits of labor in Kansas wheat fields, George Washington Walker and his wife, Katie, will reap wealth from those wheat fields—in the form of oil.

From slavery in Mississippi to owner of 1150 acres of wheat lands, from earthen floor acre leases on lands in Western dug-out to a modern residence of Kansas is common in regions near 11 large rooms, has been the ex-where wells have been brought in. Experience of this 88-year-old man The land-owners use the money who lives 14 miles southeast of for paying taxes. Great Bend, four miles from Hudson.

Was Homesteader

And now riches from a well "I had always wanted a home which was brought in Wednesday more than anything else in the January 6, will make George Walker world' Walker said the other day, er wealthier than his former Mississippi slave-master. and so, when I read some literature from the Bend (Great Bend

The Walkers, who enjoy the re- is still 'the Bend' to Walker,) I spect of their white neighbors be- made up my mind I was coming cause of their frugality and their out to Kansas and get me a home." ambition to educate their children Settlers were thick and homesteads were hard to find in 1878, and get ahead, came into the lime- Walker related, but in a few light when oil was discovered on their farm in the northern part years the drought drove scores of of Stafford county, a farm that pioneers from the West and it they realized through hard work was then, in 1882, that he homesteaded his home quarter section suffering and privation that dated back to the late '70's when they in northern Stafford county, the left their home in Kentucky and southeast quarter of section 32-21-12 which is the site of his home determined to cast their lot with the pioneer families of the West today. The place is known familiarly as "Walkerville."

Married 63 Years Wednesday

Wednesday, January 12, was the days how we lived in a dug-out, sixty-third wedding anniversary o cooking our meals in a sort of Mr. and Mrs. Walker. Added to makeshift fireplace in one corner the many memories of years o of a room," Walker said, "and at the fruitful living is the new joy that night, how I could almost reach has come signified by the oil-well up and touch the ceiling from my rig now to be seen on their farm bed."

By hard work and thriftiness, he advanced from dug-out to sod being one of the best producers in house, spent 75 painfully earned this area. It was brought in by dollars for materials with which the Stanolind Oil and Gas com- to roof his sod house and now pany. The well filled more than resides in a 11-room residence that 3,300 feet with oil after drilling is as modern as the average farm had been done to a depth of 3,625 feet. The nearest producing well are worked with modern machinery, including tractor and combine.

First indications that prospects of finding oil were close came last summer when the company, holding a \$1 per acre lease, sent a check for \$4,000 to the Walkers. The practice of holding \$1-an-



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE WALKER

"I never was prouder of any- across the plains, the family fedives from the Santa Fe railroad thing in my life than I was of stingy bites of dry corn fodder inand this company gave him 11 to the tiny cook stove to withstand years in which to pay. He built the cold. No wood, no cobs—just a sod house and the floor was packed with dirt.

cornstalks. But the next three years were poor crop years and settlers became discouraged and left by the As the years moved on, the hard work, good management and judicious thrift of this pioneer family brought their rewards. The settler that homesteaded what is now the Walker place left and the Walkers bought more land. Their three quarters today lie end to end. Walkers took it when they still owned the Santa Fe company eight quarters. At that time Walker was born in Washington, D. C., November 14, 1849, and that section of northern Stafford county and southern Barton county was a slave trader by the name of Tom Hill bought Walker's mother from Train for his niece, Miss Liza Hill of Georgia, and The Walkers had eight children. Miss Hill afterwards married a four boys and four girls. Two of the man by the name of Walker and the daughters are dead. All of the moved to Mississippi. So little children finished high school and

On other occasions he hauled loads of corn to Larned and stay- ton, D. C., November 14, 1849, and that time his mother belonged to a slave trader by the name of Tom Hill bought Walker's mother from Train for his niece, Miss Liza Hill of Georgia, and The Walkers had eight children. Miss Hill afterwards married a four boys and four girls. Two of the man by the name of Walker and the daughters are dead. All of the moved to Mississippi. So little children finished high school and

In the great blizzard of 1886 there was but little fuel with which to warm the Walker home. As the howling winds swept their blinding, biting burden of snow

George Washington took the surname of his new master.

Walker's mother was first sold without him and brought \$1,500, he said, but she grieved so at the loss of her son that he was sent to her and \$500 was refunded to her purchaser.

Mrs. Walker was born in McCracken county, Ky., and her parents were named Harris and were the property of a man named Rogers.

Freed at 16

Though he did not know his ABC's when he was 20 years of age, he now is well read and quotes the Bible in the course of conversation.

After the adoption of the thirteenth amendment by three-fourths of the states, December 18, 1865, the Bem P. Rungles school in Paducah, Ky., was established by a northern society and he attended three terms, or about 12 months of school.

Since that time, he has read biographies of famous men and the Bible as well as the daily newspapers. A person gathers in the course of conversation with him that much of Mr. Walker's ambition and desire to get ahead was acquired by reading accounts of the lives of famous men.

He recalls that the slaves knew about the issues of the Civil war because they were informed by their friends among the whites in the South and he also recollects when as a boy of 16 he was set free without a thing except the clothes on his back.

Farm for \$205

He hired out there in Mississippi as a cotton picker for a while and later drifted to Ballard county, Ky., where he raised tobacco for a salary of \$15 a month. Later he raised tobacco on the shares.

Then he left the farm and did hotel work a couple of years. January 12, 1875, he married Katie Harris and with the responsibility of making a home came the desire to own a farm of his own.

For \$205, he purchased a quarter in section 35 which is about three miles west of where he now lives from the Santa Fe railroad and this company gave him 11 years in which to pay. He built a sod house and the floor was packed with dirt.

But the next three years were poor crop years and settlers became discouraged and left by the hundreds, Walker said. The settler that homesteaded what is now the Walker place left and the Walkers bought more land. Their three quarters today lie end to end. Walkers took it when they still owned the Santa Fe company eight quarters. At that time Walker was born in Washington, D. C., November 14, 1849, and that section of northern Stafford county and southern Barton county was a slave trader by the name of Tom Hill bought Walker's mother from Train for his niece, Miss Liza Hill of Georgia, and The Walkers had eight children. Miss Hill afterwards married a four boys and four girls. Two of the man by the name of Walker and the daughters are dead. All of the moved to Mississippi. So little children finished high school and

Sons Work on Farm

The Walkers had eight children, four boys and four girls. Two of the daughters are dead. All of the children finished high school and

four attended college. called home and talked to Calvin.

The oldest son, George Jr., and whose report was that the flow of his wife own their own farm, far-oil was not then under control and ther out in Western Kansas, near that they could not estimate its out-

the Colorado line, where the senior put. Mrs. Josephine Flemming is now Walkers also have another piece the oldest living daughter. She is of property. The son looks after the wife of Frank E. Flemming, a the land. They have two chil- farmer near Pratt, Kas., where dren.

Calvin and Richard remain on they own between four and five the farm with their parents. Cal- hundred acres of land. Their com- vin is active in management of modious home was destroyed by the place. They are not married fire in 1934 and they moved into Pratt. They are now located back

The fourth son, Edward W., was on their farm, however, with their the only one not interested in ag- daughter, Geraldine. ricultural life. For several years

A son, Homer Flemming, is a he was proprietor of the Edward student at Kansas State college, W. Walker motor company in Sew- Manhattan, Kas. ad, Kas., known to members of the family as "The Grease Spot."

Two Daughters Living

Edward is now married and em- The fourth daughter, deceased, ployed in Chicago. was married to a Mr. Newsome of Cleveland, Ohio, and went there to live. There are three Newsome children. One of the sons is mar-

Two daughters, Adelaide, now ried and living in Cleveland. The deceased, and Edna, attended St- daughter, Ella, is living in Clevel- John's high school while Congress- land. nan U. S. Guyer was principal of he school.

After finishing the Kansas State Carman Newsome, 25 years old, Teachers college at Emporia, Ade- another Walker grandchild, was in aide returned to teach in the ru- New York in September, cast to be star of Oscar Micheaux's film, "God's Step Children."

Adelaide also taught at the St. Amused at Sudden Interest Mr. and Mrs. Walker have good John's school. She then went to hearing and eyesight and get Kansas City, Kas., where she around very well despite their ad- taught in the Douglass grade- vanced ages, both being in the late school. eighties. He wears a full beard

Adelaide left Douglass school to which, as well as his hair, is gray- become the bride of Chaplain ing. Mr. Walker has been describ- Gladden of the United States army- ed as "looking like Santa Claus," They soon went to a post in the a role which he has played at Phillippine Islands. Returning from Christmas gatherings in the locali- the islands, they made their home- ty.

in California until Chaplain Glad- Both appear amused at the at- den's death, after which his wid- tention that oil has focused upon them and are surprised at the ow began teaching again, in Los number of salesmen, lease buyers Angeles. She died there in 1931. and other business propositions that have been made them.

Marries Ohioan

Edna also began teaching in a Persons knowing the elder Walk- rural school in Western Kansas- ers are confident that he will re- after receiving her college educa- tain all the money that he will tion at Emporia. She then went receive from oil royalties and that taught, and became acquainted "blue sky" salesmen will only with a young man, Squire Buster, waste their time talking to him. also a teacher, with whom a ro- mance was begun.

Edna left Ohio and came back to Kansas, to Topeka at the Kan- sas Vocational school, to teach physical training.

Her girls' basketball team play- ed teams in other towns, including Northeast junior high school in Kansas City, Kas.

The young man in Ohio was not forgotten, and in 1925 Edna Walk- er and Squire Buster were married at "Walkerville."

The wedding was a gay occasion and after the ceremony the white neighbors came in, bringing their own refreshments, to hold a recep- tion.

On their way to Ohio to make their home, the Busters were en- tertained at the home of the bride- groom's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Buster, in Kansas City, Kas.

Hear News Over Radio

The Squire Busters are now living in Wilmington. They have one daughter, Edna Earle. Mr. Buster is principal of a school, and as avocation they have a flower farm.

They heard about the good fortune while listening to Lowell Thomas's news broadcast. Immediately they

Race Big Issue In La. Suit

Dispute Rages

Over Heirs To

Laralde Estate

NEW ORLEANS—(ANP)

—Depositions were taken here last week by Lawyers Theodore M. Berry of Cincinnati and A. P. Tureaud of New Orleans to determine the heirs of Louise M. Laralde, a woman whose family tree goes in New Orleans and whose father, Edward Laralde, was a brother of Thomy Lafon. Mr. Lafon changed his name from Laralde to Lafon. Louise M. Laralde passed for white very prominently in the north and northwest; she died in Cincinnati in 1937, leaving \$400,000 for her rightful heirs.

The case is unique and fascinating because some of those claiming to be kin to Mrs. Laralde are socially and economically important people who are considered white in various parts of the country, and are attempting to prove that Thomy Lafon, widely known philanthropist who appears in Louisiana history as a Negro and who is generally known as such was a white man.

RACE BIG ISSUE

It seems that if Mr. Lafon were a white man these claimants will have no trouble securing the money. One of the families, the Cherbonnier family, is in the social register of Baltimore.

Mr. Cherbonnier, who is an offspring of Modeste Foucher, a Negro woman who is the mother of Thomy Lafon, Alphee Bodin and Joseph Lacoste out of a straight colored line, is the great grand father of John Hopkins, a founder of John Hopkins university.

He received letters from Thomy Lafon as his nephew; Mr. Hopkins was also left in Thomy Lafon's will. One of the Cherbonnier's relatives married a grand niece of Modeste Foucher in New Orleans. This person is very prosperous business man in Baltimore. Edward Laralde, Jr., was a founder of the stock exchange in Cincinnati.

MUST PROVE HE IS NEGRO

There are some Negro families here claiming to be kin of Louise M. Laralde and the other creole antecedents of Thomy Lafon, Alphee Bodin and Joseph Lacoste. These families are the Spranier, Dejoie, Desoinasse, Tholmer, Mathieu and Seraparu.

They are being legally represented by Thodore M. Berry who is associated with Mr. Tureaud. They must prove that Thomy Lafon was a Negro and definitely related to Louise M. Laralde, and that they are her rightful heirs.

The trial is scheduled for next January 20 in Cincinnati. Hearings have been held in Baltimore, Kansas City, Kansas, Long Beach, California. The New Orleans hearing was the only one in which Negroes were involved.

Messrs. Berry and Tureaud had to dig deep into the conveniently put away archives of New Orleans to ascertain this information, which is not only startling but which is sufficient proof that the people of these United States are a pandemonium of blood.

Property - 1938.

Maryland

Smith Will Left \$120,000

BALTIMORE, Md., Aug. 25—According to the will of the late Thomas R. Smith, political leader and hotel owner, more than \$120,000 is to be distributed by his executors to relatives and friends. Of this sum, \$40,300 is in cash, and the balance in trusts.

Executors for the estate are: Judge William K. Dennis, white, and William L. Fitzgerald.

The largest bequest was made to Mr. Smith's brother, Wallace, who will receive \$15,000 in cash and the hotel properties at 439-411 and 1017 Druid Hill avenue.

To an unnamed friend, Mr. Smith bequeathed \$8,000 in cash as a trust to be paid by Judge Dennis.

Other bequests included: William Lee, Jr., \$1,000; Wilson Lee, \$1,000; Katie Rhodes, Atlantic City, \$2,000; Cora Nelson, Philadelphia,

\$2,000; Albert Holmes, \$200; Daniel Simms, \$500; Jessie Smith, \$2,500; William Wilson, \$2,500; Louis Hall, \$200; Susan Hall, \$200;

John Weaver, \$500; Dersert Johnson, \$200; Estelle Lee, \$2,000 in cash and the house at 2035 Druid Hill avenue; Marie Smith Tilley, great-niece, six pieces of property; Thomas Wilson, three pieces of property; Samuel Wilson, Jr., two pieces of property, and Nathaniel Wilson, four pieces of property.

Mr. Smith's jewelry was sealed in envelopes and directed to be distributed by his executors to the respective persons to whom addressed.

Mortgages on churches and other properties are to be distributed as follows: Marie Smith Tilley, \$20,000; Nathaniel Wilson, \$20,000; Samuel Wilson, Jr., \$10,000; Thomas Wilson, \$10,000; Gussie Smith Hall, \$20,000.

Property - 1938

Mississippi.

COLORED LANDOWNERS IN SWIFTWATER COMMUNITY



Greenwell Linden

2-26-38

Greenwell, Miss.

Down near Swiftwater will be found one of the most progressive communities of landowners in this section. Pictured above are "Tillers Of The Soil," who are making their contribution towards the progress and development of Washington County. Following are those shown in the pictures, as well as the number of acres of land they own: George Robinson, 45; Hayes Hudson, 80; Sam Murrell, Sr., 41; S. S. Stanback, 80; Louis H. Dorsey, 42; Joe Murphy, 40; Jim Turner, 80; Henry Crittenden, 40; F. S. Okard, 45; George Goodman, 20; Ben Amos, 40; E. Gross, 40; James Edwards, 80; Albert Goss, 84; Flowers Washington, 80; B. J. Kennon, 80; James Morris, 80; George Johnson, 80; Eddie Seal, 43; David Seal, 80; Silas Smith, 108; Elliott Hardy, 39; Sam Murrell, Jr., 63; D. V. Caldwell, 80; Charlie Mott, 24; Griffen Amos, 20.

The Walker Farm Home and Some Members of the Family

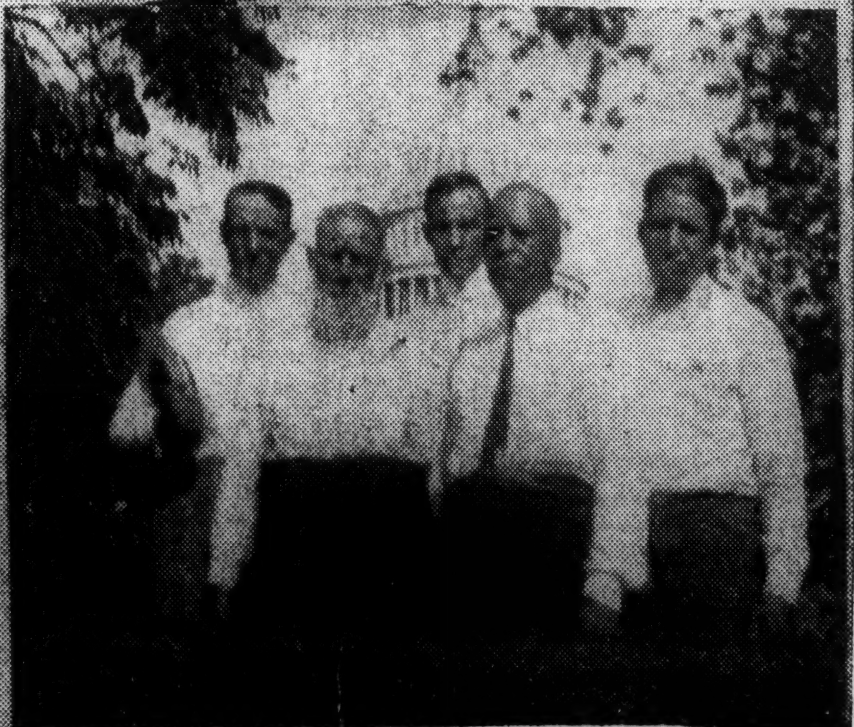
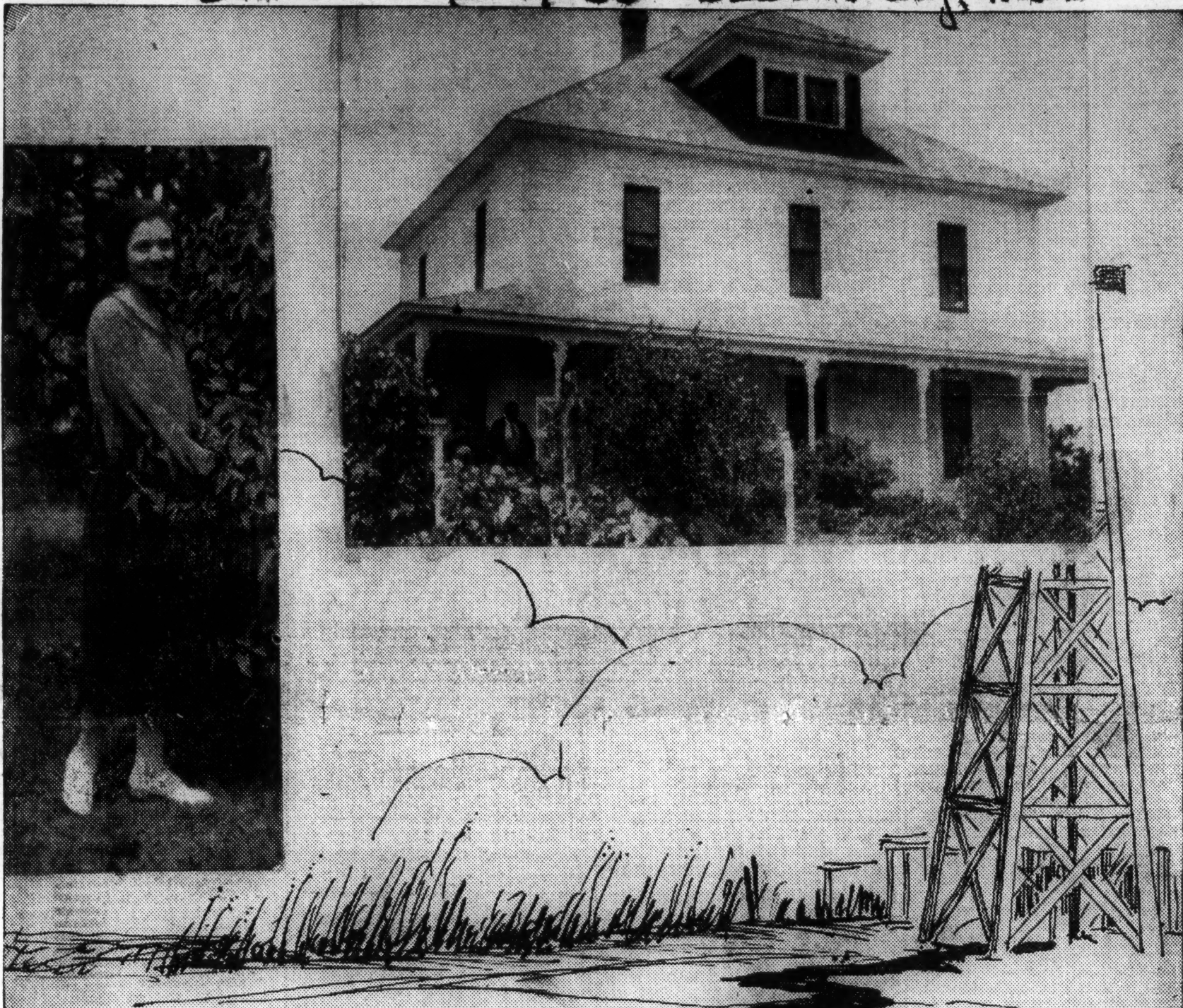
Call

1-14-38

Kansas City, Mo.

Property - 1938

Missouri.



Wealth came in an oil gusher on the farm of George W. Walker on Wednesday, January 5, and brought eyes of the nation to a Negro farmer in western Kansas. Seen at the top left is Mrs. Edna Buster of Wilmington, Ohio, one of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Walker. At the top right is the Walker 11-room

home located four miles from Hudson, Kas. Seated on the swing on the left of the porch are Mr. Walker and his guest at the time, Blind Boone, the famous musician now dead. To the left at the bottom are two grandchildren, sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Walker Jr., who own a farm near the Colorado line

in Kansas. Right, bottom, is a party visiting the nation's capital, Mr. of Wilmington, Ohio, Mr. Walker's son-in-law; Mr. Walker; G. B. 1926. Walker made the trip east in order to visit his daughter in Ohio and to satisfy his desire to see the Sesquicentennial exposition in Philadelphia. In the group are the Walker farmlands. The well is expected to be the largest in the area.

WILLS FAITHFUL NEGRO HELPER HIS NEWSPAPER Youth Left Newspaper By White Publisher

Paris, Mo. Editor
Rewards Youth

PARIS, Mo.—The unusual story of how a pioneer small town newspaper man willed his paper and real estate to eighteen-year-old Lyle Lasley, has come forth in a court action which has been taken in behalf of Lasley. The action follows claims of an associate of the editor who died July 30, 1937 after working on his Paris Mercury half a century.

The newspaper man was Tom Bodine, 71, whose sister died and left him with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lasley and their son, Lyle, to look after him. Lyle served as his chore boy 12 years when his health was failing and, as he stated, Bodine wanted to show gratitude besides a \$2.00 a day wage so, after bequeathing several books and pieces of furniture to friends he provided in his will; his "dear eye" as he went from "The residue of my estate I desire and bequeath to Lyle Lasley, son of Ray Lasley and wife, who has been in my family since the age of six. This bequest is not made as master to servant, but for love, affection and service.

He is to receive the income annually, but the principal shall be held by my executor in trust until Lyle is 25 years of age." The will was interfered with by a contract Bodine made May 24, 1937 with Paul Alexander to be office foreman as long as parties both shall live and provided that Alexander at his death should, as part consideration, receive the Mercury and all its equipment and his homestead." On his part, Alexander, who grew up in the office and returned after working on a city newspaper, agreed to install a typesetting machine and pay Lasley \$800. In case the newspaper and homestead failed to provide enough for the \$800 he was to pay Lasley \$800 out of the newspaper's earnings in three annual installments.

The estate was evaluated \$112 so now Attorney Earl Cowheard, who drew both will and contract, has filed a suit in circuit court and a claim for \$800 in probate court. It is directed against Paul Alexander and his mother to whom he has given a mortgage on the newspaper to secure a loan and the executor, Anderson.

PARIS, Mo.—(ANP)—Lyle Lasley, 17-year-old colored youth of this city, woke up one morning last week and found himself the probable possessor of the Paris Mercury, a weekly newspaper published here for more than 100 years by the Bodine family.

Lasley's overnight status as publisher was stemmed in the will recently probated of Thomas Vaughn Bodine, white, for more than 50 years publisher and editor of the Mercury. In recent years he had been stricken with disease and blindness and young Lasley was his constant companion and friend. Lasley served the editor in this capacity for the past 12 years. In his will, after disposing of various belongings, Editor Bodine made the following stipulation:

"The residue of my property real, personal and mixed, I devise and bequeath to Lyle Lasley, son of Ray Lasley and wife, col., who has been in my family since the age of six; this bequest is not made as a master to servant, but for love, affection and service. He is to receive the income annually, but the principal shall be held by my executor in trust until Lyle is 25 years of age, at which time he shall receive the principal, with any unpaid interest."

A cloud was placed on Lasley's title to the paper, however, when it was learned that Bodine made a subsequent arrangement, under which the paper was placed in the hands of another person—Paul Anderson, white—who was to pay Lasley the sum of \$800. As result of the conflicting stipulations, the entire matter has been taken to the local courts for adjudication.

Property - 1938

New York

SUGAR TYCOON CASE SETTLED IN N. Y. COURT

Suit Is Terminated After Long Legal Controversy

Efforts to prevent Julia Frederick Frost, widow of the late Arthur W. Frost, from sharing his fortune met with defeat in Surrogate's Court today when Surrogate Foley awarded her 37 1/2 per cent of his many millions and recognized the legality of their marriage. The colored widow's share is estimated at more than \$1,000,000.

Frost, sugar tycoon of Santo Domingo, had lived with Julia Fredericks, his housekeeper, for twenty-four years before their marriage, and was the father of Maria Fredericks, whose paternity was contested by relatives of the millionaire in this country.

Shocked relatives, led by Mrs. Ann Worthley of Mount Vernon, a niece, brought suit to have Frost declared mentally incompetent and thereby prevent his widow's inheriting the fortune he had left for her. Outraged by the marriage and possible loss of his property to themselves, the kin demanded that a committee be appointed to handle his estate. Prepared by Attorney Edward J. Welch, the complaint described Frost as "senile, weak-minded and easily worked upon by anyone who obtains a controlling influence over him."

Before his death two years ago Frost declared that "the only reason my relatives are trying to have me declared incompetent is because of their fear that they will not get my property. They have taken no interest in me in the past. I am not interested in them, and they are not interested in me except that they hope to obtain my property by this illegal proceeding."

Joseph Gans, Frost's attorney, said that a child's innocent remark led to the court battle between Frost and his relatives just prior to his death.

Gans also declared that Frost had

married his servant and that he was the father of her daughter Maria. This was upheld by the court Tuesday. According to Gans marriages such as Frost's are common in the Dominican island.

Schomburg Left \$1,000,000 Estate

NEW YORK.—Arthur Schomburg, who sold his collection of history, literature and art to the New York Public Library and became its curator, died a poor man, according to his will, which was filed on Friday.

The will showed his personal estate "no more than \$25" and his real property worth no more than \$1,000.

The estate goes to his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Schomburg of 105 Kiscusko Street, Brooklyn. Mr. Schomburg died on June 10.

RIGHT OVER WILL ENDED

Rich Man's Negro Widow And White Family In Agreement At Last

Two years of bitter legal entanglements, concerning the contested will of Arthur W. Frost, 70-year-old white sugar king, who tried to "cut off his blueblood relatives with a nickel" and leave his immense estate to his colored wife and her 19-year old daughter in the Dominican Republic, will come to a halt at a hearing set for December 27. The hearing will find said white relatives flaunting a previously drawn will, dated in 1922 and giving 62 1/2 per cent to the blueblood's nine nieces, grandnieces and nephews.

"Daddy is the best man who is going to die and leave us a lot of money?"

This remark by the daughter of one of Frost's nieces. It made the plutocrat planter angry. He drew up his will so that

his wife and daughter would get all his property. He drew it up airtight, lawyer-proof, and yet he failed.

The inquiring little girl became something akin to a prophet when the widow, Mrs. Julia Fredericks Frost, vigorously contested the will but, apparently tired out by the court bickerings, finally agreed to accept 37 1/2 per cent of her husband's land holdings.

Mrs. Frost had served in the sugar king's household for a quarter of a century. A year before his death they were married. The daughter, Maria, was made legal by Frost at the time of his wedding.

Headlines For Two Years

The planter died in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, December 18, 1936. His American relatives produced a will drawn in 1922. Ever since, a legal battle has been waged. For two years the case seethed and made headlines across the front pages of the nation's colored and white newspapers.

Wednesday, papers were filled in Surrogate's Court showing that the sugar-mill magnate had bequeathed the money to be cut up among the little inquiring girl's daddy, nine other nieces, grandnieces and nephews, a formidable array of receivers.

The lawyer for the relatives, Edward J. Welch of 67 West 44th street, was granted the request for a hearing on the final accounting of the City Bank Farmers Trust Co., executors for Frost's vast properties.

Property - 1938

North Carolina

Waynesville, N. C., Mountaineer
October 13, 1938

HAYWOOD 49th ON THE LIST

With the increased interest in building and home improvement which is taking place in Haywood County, and the raising of the standard of living, it is interesting to note the place the county holds in a recent state survey of the valuation of homesteads in North Carolina.

Haywood County comes 49th on the list, with the totaled assessed value of the homes set at \$6,238,815, with the average assessed value owned white home at \$1,704, and the average assessed value owned colored home at \$604, and the average of all set at \$1,666.

The figures were based on data compiled for the North Carolina Tax Classification Commission and made possible by a grant from the Works Progress Administration for field workers, with assistance from cooperating officials in the county court houses. The data was compiled under the direction of Henry Brandis, Jr., executive secretary of the Tax classification Commission.

Durham County ranks first in North Carolina in average assessed value of owner-occupied homes, town and county, white and colored, the average being \$2,296. Durham is followed closely by New Hanover, with an average of \$3,283.

The lowest assessed valuation goes to Ashe County, which for the past year was \$424, with white homes at \$430, and the colored homes at the unbelievable small sum of \$120. It should be emphasized that this study refers to assessed values and not true values. Ashe County is the states' best example of a county whose tax books do not tell the truth. The tax values of Ashe County have largely been wiped out during the last decade. A decade ago Ashe County had approximately three million dollars worth of property listed for taxation and in the neighborhood of three fourths of this valuation has been taken off the books. Actually there are several counties in the state whose homestead valuation would average considerably below the average for Ashe County, the figures show.

The data reveals many interesting facts. Caswell and Stokes Counties, which rank 15th

and 16th respectively in assessed value of owned homes, are excessively rural and generally considered among the poorer counties of the state.

The value of white owned homes in the state is from two to four times as great as the average assessed value of colored homes. Thus if a \$1,000 homestead exemption were allowed the vast majority of negro homesteads would be exempt from taxation, the average being above \$1,000 in only 12 counties of the state.

However it is not likely that the full exemption of \$1,000 will be granted by any legislature in the immediate future, the survey points out.

Wins \$150,000 In Sweepstakes

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—Mrs. Charles C. Stewart, \$150,000 sweepstakes' prize winners, was visiting in New York when notified of her good fortune last week. Always a calm and lovely character, she displayed no excitement, but rather was surprised that she had won.

"The idea of winning never occurring to me," she said. She had bought tickets for the sweepstakes twice, she continued, but always principally because she thought she was doing it to benefit a hospital for the sick in Ireland.

Mrs. Stewart, wife of a prominent North Carolina physician, is a resident of Greensboro, where she has been organist at the St. Matthews Methodist church for the past 25 years. In spite of her greatly increased fortune she plans to continue her work as organist, and housekeeping for her husband.

Born in Charlotte, N. C., Mrs. Stewart is a member of an old and renowned family. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Kennedy, reared her. Mr. Kennedy was one of the first Negro railway mail clerks and his wife, a pianist, was one of the first Negro teachers.

The gift of music has been prominent in the family for generations. It continues to survive in Mrs. Stewart's daughter, Mrs. Frederic A. Jackson, and her five-year-old granddaughter, Anna Louise Jackson, who are both musical, Anna Louise having had her first recital last June 15.

Other relatives of Mrs. Stewart include: Mrs. Bessye Bearden, a sister-in-law, who is deputy collector internal revenue, audit division New York, wife of her brother Howard; a nephew, Romare Bearden, artist son of the Howard Bearden; Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Bearden, and their daughter, Mrs. Aida Bearden Johnson.

Property - 1938

Oklahoma

BARNETT

Multi-Millionaire Indian Has Relatives Here

Estate Worth Between Five and Forty Millions.

Three Cincinnati Negroes have an inside chance of figuring in the final disposition of the estate of Jackson Barnett, "richest Indian," which has been estimated at between \$5,000,000 and \$40,000,000, it was revealed Monday.

Mrs. Flora Henderson Hector, 50, 738 West Sixth Street; her brother, Clarence Henderson, Fifth Street, and her sister, Mrs. Check Parnell, who lives with Mrs. Hector, are the three who figure to inherit the money if and when the Government makes a disposition of the case. Mrs. Parnell and Mrs. Hector are grand nieces of Barnett and Henderson is a grand nephew, it was stated.

AMONG 27 OTHERS

Although 27 other persons have been listed tentatively as heirs of Barnett, Mrs. Hector said that there is only one person who claims closer relationship to the "richest Indian" than they. He is Laws Harden, Knoxville, Tenn., and he is said to be a nephew.

"If we don't get some part of this money, then I know that the matter has not been handled fair," Mrs. Hector said. She related that through their own efforts and that of an attorney, W. L. Carson, Knoxville, they had compiled records, including a family Bible, which conclusively prove their right to share in the large estate.

Barnett died in Oklahoma four years ago. He owned 160 acres of the richest oil lands in that state and various other properties. Recently his widow, Mrs. Jackson Barnett, was removed forcibly from Barnett's Los Angeles (Calif.) home following a court order stating that she was not legally wed to the wealthy Cherokee Indian.

BARNETT'S SISTER

Mrs. Hector said that her deceased grandmother, Mrs. Check Harden, Knoxville, was Barnett's sister. Shortly after Barnett died, the Government advertised in Knoxville papers in an effort to find his heirs, the proprietress of a West End rooming house related. She said that her brother, a resident of the southern city, noticed the ad and brought the matter to the attention of Mrs. Harden, who then was living.—Times-Star.

Property - 1938

Tennessee

Bob Church's \$120,000 Property May Sell For \$55,000 For Taxes Due

Estate Built Up By Pioneer
Memphis Family May Go
Under The Hammer

MEMPHIS, — (ANP) Property at Beale street owned by Bob Church, Republican leader, which was once valued at \$120,000 will be sold to collect \$55,000 back taxes, if a suit is filed Friday in chancery court is won by the city and county. *St. Louis, Mo.*

Twelve pieces of property, the residence of the estate left Bob and his sister, Annette, by their father, R. H. Church, Sr., ex-slave are involved. The realty once was valued at more than \$200,000, and was actually assessed at \$120,000. Officials doubt, however, that it would bring the \$55,000 in taxes due.

Faithful Servant 43 Years, Negro Is Rewarded In Will

By The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, April 14.—A faithful negro servant who cared for her mistress for 43 years will receive a major portion of the estate of Miss Kate White, prominent Knoxville clubwoman and historian, who died last week. *4-15-38*

Miss White's will was approved today by County Judge Sam O. Houston after testimony that the unwitnessed instrument was in Miss White's handwriting.

Referring to her servant, Lizzie Kent, Miss White said:

"She pulled me through all my great trials and sorrows, waited on me faithfully and never seemed to know what it was to let me want for care. I do not want her to ever work for anyone else, but leave her free to do as she likes."

The servant will get three valuable houses, \$1000 in cash and \$5000 in bonds, clothes, furs, jewelry, a bedroom suite, curtains, rugs, stove, kitchen utensils, dishes, dining room suite, bed clothes and other household furnishings.

Miss White stipulated that Lizzie was to ride in the first automobile back of the hearse in the funeral procession.

She left her valuable library of 6000 volumes — mostly historical works—to the Jesuit College in New Orleans, to be called the William White Memorial Library.

Property - 1938

Texas.

SEVENTY 22 YEARS GETS
\$1,000 LEGACY

FORT WORTH, Tex.—(ANP)—Mrs. Winifield Scott, 73, white, who died recently leaving an estate of \$100,000, did not forget the kind service of her Negro servant, Bonnie Trigg, who had served her for twenty-two years. She specified in her will that he be given \$1,000 at her death. Along with many other whites whom Mrs. Scott had named that a cash legacy of \$18,000 be given, Bonnie Trigg will receive the money when the will is administered.

Noted Jones Family Of Thompson, Texas Operate Successful Ranch

THOMPSON, Tex., Dec. 30—(ANP)—Three women, a mother and two daughters, are carrying on a farming operation here in Fort Benn County which, certainly ranks with big business and they are accomplishing the task with rare success. Mrs. Y. U. Jones, Miss Beatrice M. Jones and Miss Willa Jones direct and manage the operation of a farm comprising 4800 acres.

When Y. U. Jones, widely known planter and cattleman, died here a few years ago, there was some apprehension among his friends as to the future of the large estate he had built up. Farming and the cattle business are two industries which must be closely watched and skillfully managed to produce profitable results. Events have proven that the fears of friends were groundless. Mr. Jones had trained his daughter, Beatrice, carefully as his secretary and with the aid of her sister and astute mother, their operations have been increased over what they were when Mr. Jones lived.

The Jones family's plantation consists of 4,700 acres which is owned outright. On this land this year they planted 300 acres to cotton on which they made 150 bales. Five hundred acres were planted in cover crops, soil building legumes required under the government conservation program. Their check from the government alone under the payment for cotton subsidy was \$3,000. Their 21 tenant families received \$1,000 as their subsidy share. The Joneses received an additional \$800 from the government, for their soil conservation planting.

Miss Beatrice Jones explained that they rented 3,100 acres for pasture purposes upon which they feed 500 cattle. They sell three carloads each year of calves and old cows, but through a lucky stroke she was able to rent one-third of her rented acreage to a rice grower, the rice farm rental covering the entire cost of her pasture, making the cattle grazing a clear profit. She rents another 100 acres to a white farmer at an additional profit.

Most of the 21 tenants on the Jones plantation this year are Mexicans, although formerly they were all colored. Seven of these are sharecroppers, working on halves and the others are tenants who own their own equipment and furnish their own upkeep, thereby paying 1-3 and 1-4 of their crop for rental.

Although oil wells are producing all about them and they have received \$30,000 over a period of time for leases on their lands, their holdings have not as yet been drilled.

Their home is a lovely mansion-like structure, built by their father. Beautifully furnished, with every modern convenience, an electric range, natural gas, gorgeous dining appointments, needle point chairs and rare dishes, the home reminds one of an historic plantation dwelling.

Hospitable and gracious, the three greet and entertain their friends, colored and white, with a gentility which smacks of true aristocracy.

"What we have been able to do is not so wonderful," said Beatrice Jones. "We have used simple, straightforward business methods and have tried to apply common sense to our operations. The governmental programs of the AAA have proven a great boon to us.

Without their aid we would have been compelled to find new crops to plant. The governmental acreage reduction has been rather severe, however, on our tenants. We would prefer they had larger tracts to farm."

"These holdings and our opportunity for service are the result of the great wisdom and ability of Mr. Jones," said the mother. "He made this farm, buying one tract after another until he had assembled the whole. He was a contractor in his early days, manufacturing ties for

the railroad company. He saved his money, invested it wisely, and it is our purpose to carry on in the same spirit."

The family is well known socially throughout the country. Both daughters are graduates of Wiley College and Beatrice is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Miss Willa Jones is the former wife of Atty. Bob Booker of Little Rock, Ark. They have one son who has been named Y. U. Jones, 2nd. He is attending high school in Houston, but since he is heir to the estate, Mrs. Jones wishes him to be trained in practical agriculture and is planning after a year's work on the farm to send him to Tuskegee to finish his education.

Virginia
6

Property - 1938

NEGROES LOSE 53,000
ACRES

(Special to Guide) 1

ALTAVISTA, Va. — How Virginia Negroes have suffered losses during this depression—53,000 acres having been lost to race farmers alone in the state—was explained by Lawyer T. C. Walker in an address here Tuesday night to members of the Altavista Negro Business Men's Club.

He pointed out that practically all the property and business which Negroes lose pass into white hands. But such holdings, he said, which pass hands among whites, remain always in the white race.

The speaker urged the group to spread the gospel of thrift, economy and industry among Negroes.